



RESOLUTION

RENAMING THE FORT RUGER MINI PARK THE OPERATION RED WING-MEDAL OF HONOR PARK.

WHEREAS, Section 22-9.3 (a)(3) of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990, as amended, states that:

In exceptional cases, a new or existing park, site or facility may be named for a person, or for a belief, ideal, concept or historical event of significance to the community, city, nation or world. In cases where the park, site or facility is named for an individual, that person must be deceased and must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- (A) The person has a significant association with the park, site, or facility;
- (B) The person has contributed significantly to the community or area in which the park, site or facility is located;
- (C) The person has achieved significant recognition historically on the city, state, national or international level; or
- (D) The person has been honored for service with the armed forces of the United States of America;

and

WHEREAS, in early 2005, a four-member Navy SEAL team ("team") led by Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy ("Lt. Murphy") was in Afghanistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom; and

WHEREAS, the team also included Gunner's Mate 2nd Class (SEAL) Danny Dietz ("Danny Dietz"), Sonar Technician 2nd Class (SEAL) Matthew Axelson ("Matthew Axelson"), and Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (SEAL) Marcus Luttrell ("Marcus Luttrell"); and

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2005, the team was conducting reconnaissance as part of a counter insurgent mission named Operation Red Wing in an extremely rugged, enemy-controlled area east of Asadabad, when they were discovered by a group of anti-coalition militia sympathizers, who revealed their location to Taliban fighters; and

WHEREAS, the team was subsequently besieged by roughly 30-40 enemy fighters; and



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WHEREAS, although heavily outnumbered, the team valiantly engaged the large enemy force during a two-hour gunfight, resulting in numerous enemy casualties; and

WHEREAS, after the team's primary communicator fell mortally wounded, Lt. Murphy repeatedly attempted to call for assistance and fought his way into open terrain to gain better position to transmit a call, exposing himself to direct enemy fire while he provided the team's location to headquarters and requested immediate support; and

WHEREAS, a MH-47 Chinook helicopter with eight additional SEALs and eight Army Night Stalkers aboard, was sent as part of an extraction mission to pull out the four embattled SEALs; and

WHEREAS, despite the tremendous risk of going into an active enemy area in the daylight, the rescue team opted to directly enter the oncoming battle in hopes of aiding their military brothers who were shot, surrounded, and severely wounded; and

WHEREAS, while racing to the battle, the helicopter was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade, killing all sixteen men; and

WHEREAS, the eight Army Night Stalkers casualties included: Staff Sergeant Shamus O. Goare, Chief Warrant Officer Corey J. Goodnature, Sergeant Kip A. Jacoby, Sergeant 1st Class Marcus V. Muralles, Master Sergeant James W. Ponder III, Major Stephen C. Reich, Sergeant 1st Class Michael L. Russell, and Chief Warrant Officer Chris J. Scherkenbach; and

WHEREAS, the eight SEALs killed in the helicopter included: Chief Petty Officer Jacques J. Fontan, Senior Chief Petty Officer Daniel R. Healy ("Daniel Healy"), Lieutenant Commander Erik S. Kristensen, Petty Officer 1st Class Jeffrey A. Lucas, Lieutenant Michael M. McGreevy, Jr., Petty Officer 2nd Class James E. Suh ("James Suh"), Petty Officer 1st Class Jeffrey S. Taylor, and Petty Officer 2nd Class Eric S. Patton ("Eric Patton"); and

WHEREAS, on the ground and nearly out of ammunition, Lt. Murphy, Danny Dietz, and Matthew Axelson fought bravely until they were mortally wounded; and

WHEREAS, Marcus Luttrell, knocked unconscious after being blasted over a ridge by a grenade, later managed to escape despite severe dehydration, shrapnel embedded in both legs, a bullet wound to one leg, and three cracked vertebrae; and



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WHEREAS, Luttrell, the team's lone survivor, was found by Afghan men, who carried him to their village and provided food and medical attention, and protected him from Taliban who came and demanded that he be turned over to them; and

WHEREAS, several days later, a village elder brought a note from Luttrell to a Marine outpost several miles away, and the U.S. forces launched a massive operation that rescued him from enemy territory on July 2nd; and

WHEREAS, June 28, 2005 was the worst single-day U.S. Forces death toll since Operation Enduring Freedom began in 2001 and was the single largest loss of life for Naval Special Warfare since World War II; and

WHEREAS, five of the SEALs killed during Operation Red Wing, Lt. Murphy, Matthew Axelson, Daniel Healy, James Suh and Eric Patton, had been stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and received military decoration for their sacrifices; and

WHEREAS, one of these SEALs, Lt. Murphy, was posthumously awarded the military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, being the first recipient of that honor for combat in Afghanistan and the fourth Navy SEAL in history to earn this award; and

WHEREAS, numerous other residents of the State of Hawaii also received the Medal of Honor for their service for the United States in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, there is no monument or memorial in the City and County of Honolulu specifically honoring the Medal of Honor recipients from Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, Fort Ruger Mini Park is a 3.24-acre park located at 3906 Kahala Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii, is located in an area with a rich military history and is named after Fort Ruger, which is located nearby both outside of and within the Diamond Head Crater; and

WHEREAS, Fort Ruger was established in 1909 and served as the first military reservation in the Territory of Hawaii and is still used for training by the Hawaii National Guard; and

WHEREAS, the council wishes to recognize the courageous actions and honor the heroic sacrifices of the men of Operation Red Wing as well as all other Medal of Honor recipients from the State of Hawaii; now, therefore,



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BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that Fort Ruger Mini Park be renamed the Operation Red Wing-Medal of Honor Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that appropriate signage and a memorial plaque recounting the heroism of the men of Operation Red Wing as well as the other Medal of Honor recipients from Hawaii be placed by the city administration at Operation Red Wing-Medal of Honor Park to honor the men of Operation Red Wing and the Medal of Honor recipients; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of parks and recreation make every effort to prepare the signage and memorial plaque for the park in time for the Veterans Day celebration on November 11, 2008; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the mayor, the director of parks and recreation, the families of the fallen members of Operation Red Wing, and Marcus Luttrell; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect on Veterans Day, November 11, 2008.

INTRODUCED BY:

Charles Djou

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

August 12, 2008
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 08-188, CD1

Introduced: 08/12/08 By: CHARLES DJOU

Committee: PUBLIC HEALTH,
SAFETY AND WELFARE

Title: RESOLUTION RENAMING THE FORT RUGER MINI PARK THE OPERATION RED WING-MEDAL OF
HONOR PARK.

Links: [RES08-188](#)
[RES08-188, CD1](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE	10/2/08	CR-306 – RESOLUTION REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION AS AMENDED IN CD1 FORM.
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COUNCIL	10/15/08	CR-306 AND RESOLUTION AS AMENDED (RES08-188, CD1) WERE ADOPTED.				
	APO Y	CACHOLA Y	DELA CRUZ Y	DJOU Y	GARCIA Y	
	KOBAYASHI Y	MARSHALL Y	OKINO Y	TAM Y		

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.


DENISE C. DE COSTA, CITY CLERK


BARBARA MARSHALL, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER